many mines in Orissa are closed due to lakh of environment and forest clearance; and

(b) whether Government would consider to give necessary clearance at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Out of ninety nine proposal received from the Government of Orissa under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, seventy four proposals have been accorded forestry clearance, fourteen cases including ten proposals relating to renewal of mining lease have been rejected on merits and in respect of five proposals information is awaited from the Government of Orissa.

Out of sixteen proposals received for environmental clearance under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, nine have been accorded environmental clearance and three have been closed for non-furnishing of information by the project authorities. No proposal relating to renewal of mining lease has been rejected from the environmental angle.

Six proposals for forestry clearance and four proposals for environmental clearance are under process. Decision on the proposals is taken within ninety days from the date of receipt of complete information.

Decrease in Bamboo Forests

3687. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forests and stock of bamboos in the country are going down alarmingly, particularly in Maharashtra, for the last eight years;

(b) whether any financial incentives have been offered to Maharashtra to revive their bamboo forests; and

(c) if so, the details thereof year-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover of the country biennially using satellite data and publishes as State of Forest Report. According to six assessments published so far, forest cover of the country has declined from 19.49%.to 19.27% during the period 1981—83 to 1993—95. As per latest State of Forest Report published by Forest Survey of India, forest cover in Maharashtra has increased

by 2300 sq. km in the period October, 1992 to November, 1993. According to State of Forest, 1995, estimated growing stock of bamboo of the country and State of Maharashtra are 36,371 and 5,156 thousand cubic metres respectively. No further assessment of bamboo stock has been made.

(b) and (c) An outlay of Rs. 443.81 lakhs has been earmarked for State of Maharashtra under Ninth Five Year Plan under centrally sponsored afforestation scheme Non-timber Forest Produce which includes raising of bamboo plantations. Following are the details of. amount provided in the last three years:—

1997-1998	Rs. 38.51 lakhs.
1998-1999	Rs. 48.67 lakhs.
1999-2000	—

Transfers of Deputy Conservators of Forests

3688. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that officers of the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests are transferred from one district to another after putting in tenure of three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some such officers who have put in more than three years of tenure are still continuing at Silvasa and Daman and some other places;

(c) if so, the reasons of their overstay and the time by which those are likely to be transferred; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The Union Ministry of Environment & Forests is the Cadre Controlling Authority for the Arunachal Pradesh - Goa - Mizoram - Union Territories (AGMUT) joint cadre of Indian Forest Service. There is, no fixed tenure for Indian Forest Service Officers of the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests at a particular station. In the exigencies of public service, they are transferred from one station to another from time to time. The question of overstay, therefore, does not arise.